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MEDLARS Cumulative Report 1966 - 1972

On April 21, 1966 a contract between the National Library of Medicine and the University of Michigan was signed to establish the Midwest Regional MEDLARS Center in Ann Arbor. It provided for furnishing bibliographies to biomedical and other health related scientists, etc. in a nine-state area. Also included in the original contract were provisions for local processing of searches after a certain amount of "reprogramming and related computer experimentation."

Various problems delayed implementation of the search service until the end of December, 1967. Conversion of the UCLA IBM 7094 programs to the UM IBM 7090 systems was begun, but before the new programs were operational, the 7090 was replaced by an IBM 360-67 system, and it was decided to discontinue computer operations at the UM.

With the return from the NLM training program of Linn Kelner and Robert Lawrence the Midwest Regional MEDLARS Center was fully operational by March, 1968. Dr. Kelner and Mr. Lawrence made a number of presentations describing MEDLARS service, and performed the daily searching duties. Ms. Barbara Kelner was added to the staff as an Indexer. Ms. Ann D. Nevill was recruited and trained as an Indexer/Searcher, beginning work at the Center in July 1968.

The year following was one of major changes in personnel. Mr. Donald D. Dennis left in December 1968 to go to NLM. His position as MEDLARS Project Director was taken over by Mr. David K. Maxfield. Dr. Linn Kelner left for NLM in September 1968. Ms. Lorraine Gesser Hirschfeld was hired as a Searcher in February 1969 pending completion of training at NLM. She was able to complete this in less than the usual six months and began active duty in June 1969.

By that time, after two and one half years of operation, the MEDLARS Center was a recognized part of the biomedical community, in particular that of the University of Michigan. Its services extended to Wayne State University, Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Public Health, Eastern Michigan University, 200 hospitals in Michigan, and to other smaller institutions.

Ms. Ann Nevill resigned at the end of August 1969 to take a position with the National Science Library in Ottawa, Canada. This left Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Hirschfeld as Searchers, with Mr. Lawrence as Head of the Center.

As detailed in the Yearly Report for 1969/70, the work load grew so that a third Searcher was needed. However, such was not to be, and the two Searchers managed as well as they could. Information activities especially increased during this period. The full MEDLARS Orientation program (several hours) was given eight times. In addition, five hour-long lectures were given to selected groups of graduate students, and Ms. Hirschfeld was a speaker at a conference sponsored by the U. of M. Center for Continuing Education for Women.

Also during this period, the monthly recurring demand service was begun. By July 1970, 80 such were being processed each month.

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Over the period July 1970 - June 1971 the staff remained stable. Six orientation programs were given. Mr. Lawrence attended the MEDLARS/AIM-TWX Workshop at the NLM, the American Society for Information Science Convention in Philadelphia, and the meetings of the directors of the Regional Medical Libraries and MEDLARS Centers prior to the MLA Convention in New York City. Ms. Hirschfeld attended to the daily operations of the Michigan MEDLARS Center.

A mutual agreement was arranged with the Shiffman Medical Library at Wayne State University to expedite search requests from that library through a single contact person. Further details are in the Yearly Report for 1970/71. The arrangement was beneficial to both institutions. The librarians at Wayne State Univeristy and Michigan State University have publicized MEDLARS services particularly actively, resulting in a substantial number of requests.

In May 1971, each MEDLARS Center was restricted by NLM to a specified quota of searches. Michigan's was 90 searches per month with at least 25% to be from outside the University of Michigan. As the immediately ensuing months were the summer months--normally a time of relatively lighter load--there was no great difficulty in staying within the quota until September 1971.

The period beginning July 1971 was dominated by the activities surrounding the phase-out of the Michigan MEDLARS Center. Original plans called for termination by Dec. 31, 1971. A new position was found for Mr. Lawrence within the U. of M. Library System, transfer being effected on September 1, 1971. Ms. Hirschfeld then had upon her the full operational load of the Center. As detailed in the Yearly Report, the quality and quantity of work output were not impaired.

At the approach of the planned contract termination date at least $12,000 of the allotted funds were unspent. Consequently, an extension period of four months was arranged and a new termination date of April 1, 1972 set.

Ms. Hirschfeld continued to perform the duties of a Head of a MEDLARS Center as well as those of Searcher, aided only by part-time student help.

A MEDLINE terminal, purchased with some of the remaining funds, was delivered on January 14, 1972, thus expanding the range of information services offered by the Center. That terminal now continues to be used by the Reference and Interlibrary Loan Section of the U. of M. Medical Center Library.

Twelve orientations were given with regard to MEDLARS and/or MEDLINE. In connection with the latter, Ms. Hirschfeld attended a two-day Workshop at NLM.

The salient features of the entire contract period July 1967 - April 1972 are presented in the appended tables.

The number of searches released went from 343 in 1967-68 to a high of 1,387 in 1970-71. A grand total of 4,823 searches was released during the full period. (Table I)

A large portion (2,386 out of 4,823) of the searches originated within the University of Michigan. Next in rank (962 of the 4,823) came from other universities and colleges in Michigan. Some searches originated out of state until 1970, when the area served by the Michigan MEDLARS Center was reduced sharply from the region Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan to Michigan alone. (Table II) Reference to the table showing output of searches will reveal that the reduction in area served did not result in a reduction of search requests. In fact, they increased.

This increasing demand for MEDLARS and, later, MEDLINE services by sources within Michigan is attributed by the writer in great part to the extensive publicity and orientations presented by the Michigan MEDLARS Center, as well as referrals by well satisfied patrons.

An average of $4,053.16/month was spent during the period. A breakdown can be seen in Table III.

A comparison of the output from this Center with that of other Centers in operation as of October 1969 (Table IV) shows Michigan to be below average in rejection of searches, above average in number of searches released--both recurring demand and regular searches, below average in thruput time when compared with all Centers but above average when compared with those other Centers without processing facilities. Because a majority of the Centers patrons came personally to submit a request, most of the unsuitable requests were screened out before formal application was made. This resulted in an apparently low rejection rate.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine G. Hirschfeld

Lorraine G. Hirschfeld

July 1, 1972

TABLE I

Search Record

Year	Released	Received	Rejected
1967-68	343	No data available	
1968-69	1,071	1,154	53
1969-70	1,233	1,224	19
1970-71	1,387	1,409	53
1971-Apr.72	789	874	63
Total	4,823	4,661	188

TABLE II

Origin of Searches

Year	University of Michigan	Michigan Other Univ.& Coll.	Michigan Other Hosp. etc.	Out of State
1967-68	No data available			
1968-69	No data available			
1969-70	956	77	108	92
1970-71	914	266	207	--
1971-Apr.72	516	138	135	--
	2,386	962	558	92

Total : 3,998

Area Served

1967-68	Kansas,[a] Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri,[a] Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio[b], Kentucky,[b] Michigan
1968-69	Illinois,[c] Indiana,[c] Iowa,[c] Minnesota,[c] Wisconsin,[c] Michigan
1969-70	Michigan
1970-71	Michigan
1971-72	Michigan

[a]Became responsibility of MEDLARS Center at the Denison Memorial Library at the University of Colorado Medical Center, Denver, Colorado.

[b]Became responsibility of MEDLARS Center at the Health Center Library, Ohio State University College of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio.

[c]Became responsibility of Midwest Regional Medical Library, The John Crerar Library, Chicago, Illinois.

TABLE III

Average Expenditures/Month

1966-68	$3,690.25
1968-69	$5,365.00
1969-70	$3,837.97
1970-71	$4,290.37
1971-72	$3,082.25

TABLE IV

MEDLARS Statistics from Oct. 1969 - Apr. 1972

	Searches Rejected	Searches Released Excluding RDS	Recurring Demand Searches Released	Thruput* Time
Alabama	149	2,969	212	96.1
Colorado	32	2,158	429	98.7
Crerar	152	1,513	46	66.5
Harvard	537	2,431	228	54.9
Michigan	128	2,998	2,395	76.2
Ohio	366	3,383	3,026	97.9
Phila.	224	1,494	298	68.6
Texas	375	3,665	687	100.0
UCLA	691	4,336	743	64.7
Wash.	308	1,873	55	79.3
Average	296.2	2,682	811.9	80.29**
Total	2,962	26,820	8,119	

*Oct. 1969-June 1970= % released 30 days or less.
July 1970-April 1972=% released 20 days or less

**Average % released in Centers with processing facilities 98.1%.
Average % released in Centers without processing facilities 68.3%.

Equipment List

Item	Serial #	Cost	Present Location
Royal Typewriter	440-138914820	$ 209.25	Medical Center Library
Dazor Universal Clamp Model Lamp	K4-2134 FGN	$ 36.25	Medical Center Library
Typewriter Table	Hercules # 7	$ 22.46	Medical Center Library
Execuport 300 Terminal	This one presently on loan from Tymeshare #1036	$2,900.00	Medical Center Library

Typewriter and table used for MEDLINE service.

Execuport terminal provides MEDLINE search service.

Lamp illuminates terminal keyboard.

Staff History

I.	PROJECT DIRECTORS	
	David K. Maxfield	April 1966 - September 30, 1966 January 1, 1969 - April 30, 1972
	Robert E. Burton	October 1, 1966 - September 30, 1967
	Donald D. Dennis	October 1, 1967 - December 31, 1968
II.	CENTER HEADS	
	Donald D. Dennis	October 1, 1967 - December 31, 1968
	Robert E. Lawrence	January 1, 1969 - August 30, 1971
	Lorraine G. Hirschfeld	September 1,1971 - April 30, 1972
III.	SEARCHERS	
	Linn Kelner	April 10, 1967 - September 31, 1968
	Robert E. Lawrence	June 1, 1967 - August 31, 1971
	Ann D. Nevill (Indexer 1/2 time)	February 1, 1968 - August 31, 1969
	Lorraine G. Hirschfeld	February 1, 1969 - April 30, 1972
IV.	KEY PUNCH OPERATORS	
	Kathleen Iven	1968 - 1971
	Joan Willis	1971 - 1972
V.	SECRETARIES	
	Kathleen J. Malley	September 1968 - December 1969
	Kirsten Lietz	January 1969 - August 1969
	Jean Alvarez-Calderon	August 1969 - February 1970
	Cheryl Kugler	February 1970 - September 1970
	Jean Breisch	September 1970 - July 1971
	Martha Jacobs	August 1971 - September 1971
	Lissa Griffin	September 1971 - April 1972
VI.	PROGRAMMER	
	Tad Pinkerton	1966 - 1967